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Governor Blanco Establishes the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation

Baton Rouge, LA--Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco today announced the creation of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, a non-profit foundation established to accept donations that will be used to meet the immediate and long term needs of the thousands of Louisiana citizens whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Donations should be made payable to the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation and sent to: PO Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095. Credit card donations will also be accepted online at www.louisiana.gov.

"People from all over Louisiana and the nation are heartbroken at the sight of death and destruction in southeastern Louisiana," said Governor Blanco. "In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we have received an overwhelming outpouring of support by phone, fax and e-mail from people throughout Louisiana and the United States. This fund will give people a tangible way to help their fellow citizens in need.

"The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation will allow us to respond to those offers and help us quickly, efficiently and effectively move these donations to those who need it the most," Governor Blanco added.

The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation has been established in order to help provide immediate assistance to our citizens in need through a network of Louisiana charities, non-profit and governmental agencies, including clearinghouses like the Louisiana VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). The Foundation is also designed to support long-term family restoration and recovery by focusing on education, housing, health care, legal assistance and jobs for Louisiana families whose lives have been altered by Hurricane Katrina.

Louisiana Secretary of State Al Ater has certified the paperwork creating the foundation. Representatives from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have also promised to expedite the process for certifying the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation as a non-profit, tax-deductible foundation under Section 501(c)(3). Pending IRS certification, donations will be tax deductible.

For additional information visit www.louisiana.gov, www.louisianahelp.org, or Katrina.louisiana.gov.

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